

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 28 to 60, 62 and 63 are withdrawn from consideration. Please cancel Claims 6 to 8, 15 to 17, 24 to 26 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and amend Claims 1, 10, and 19 as shown below. The claims, as pending in the subject application, now read as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A printing control apparatus that communicates with an image forming apparatus connected via a network, comprising:

registration means for registering information used in order to enable utilization of the image forming apparatus; [[and]]

generating means, responsive to registration of said information by said registration means, for generating setting information to set a printing-completion notification destination of printing-completion notification means of the image forming apparatus to the printing control apparatus in such a manner that notification of completion of printing can be received from the image forming apparatus; and

determination means for determining, on the basis of information indicative of a printing-completion notification function possessed by the image forming apparatus, whether the image forming apparatus has a printing-completion notification function,

wherein the result of the determination by said determination means is transmitted to the information processing apparatus, and

wherein said determination means determines whether a printing-completion notification destination in the image forming apparatus can be stored

in the image forming apparatus, and transmits the result of this determination to the information processing apparatus, and

wherein if said determination means determines that the printing-completion notification destination of said image forming apparatus can be stored in the image forming apparatus, an instruction which makes a setting such that the printing-completion notification destination becomes the printing control apparatus is not generated with respect to print data, and if said determination means determines that the printing-completion notification destination cannot be stored in the image forming apparatus, the information processing apparatus is notified in such a manner that an instruction which makes a setting such that the printing-completion notification destination becomes the printing control apparatus is generated with respect to print data.

2. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the information used in order to enable utilization of the image forming apparatus includes information indicative of a printing-completion notification function possessed by the image forming apparatus;

said generating means generating setting information, which is recognizable by the image forming apparatus for setting the printing-completion notification destination to the printing control apparatus, on the basis of information indicating the printing-completion notification function possessed by the image forming apparatus

3. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the setting information is transmitted in order that the printing-completion notification destination of

printing-completion notification means of the image forming apparatus will be set to the image forming apparatus as a network address.

4. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the network address is a network address of a print server, and the printing control apparatus transmits this network address in order that it will be set to the image forming apparatus.

5. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:
print-request receiving means for receiving a print request, which does not include print data, from an information processing apparatus connected to the printing control apparatus via the network; and

printing-permission notification means for notifying the information processing apparatus of permission to execute printing in accordance with the status of the image forming apparatus;

wherein said information processing apparatus transmits print data to the image forming apparatus in response to notification of permission to execute printing from said printing control apparatus.

6. to 8. (Canceled)

9. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the printing control apparatus is a print server.

10. (Currently amended) A printing control method for communicating with an image forming apparatus connected via a network, comprising:

a registration step of registering information used in order to enable utilization of the image forming apparatus; and

a generating step, responsive to registration of said information at said registration step, for generating setting information to set a printing-completion notification destination of a printing-completion notification step of the image forming apparatus to a printing control apparatus in such a manner that notification of completion of printing can be received from-the image forming apparatus; and

a determination step of determining, on the basis of information indicative of a printing-completion notification function possessed by the image forming apparatus, whether the image forming apparatus has a printing-completion notification function, wherein the result of the determination at said determination step is transmitted to the information processing apparatus,

wherein said determination step determines whether a printing-completion notification destination in the image forming apparatus can be stored in the image forming apparatus, and transmits the result of this determination to the information processing apparatus, and

wherein if said determination step determines that the printing-completion notification destination in said image forming apparatus can be stored in the image forming apparatus, an instruction which makes a setting such that the printing-completion notification destination becomes the printing control apparatus is not generated with respect to print data, and if said determination step determines that the printing-completion

notification destination cannot be stored in the image forming apparatus, the information processing apparatus is notified in such a manner that an instruction which makes a setting such that the printing-completion notification destination becomes the printing control apparatus is generated with respect to print data.

11. (Original) The method according to claim 10, wherein the information used in order to enable utilization of the image forming apparatus includes information indicative of a printing-completion notification function possessed by the image forming apparatus; and

if information indicating the printing-completion notification function possessed by the image forming apparatus indicates that the image forming apparatus has the printing-completion notification function, said generating step generates setting information, which is recognizable by the image forming apparatus for setting the printing-completion notification destination to the printing-control apparatus in the image forming apparatus; and

if information indicating the printing-completion notification function possessed by the image forming apparatus does not indicate that the image forming apparatus has the printing-completion notification function, said generating step does not generate setting information, which is recognizable by the image forming apparatus for setting the printing-completion notification destination to the printing control apparatus in the image forming apparatus.

12. (Original) The method according to claim 11, further comprising a transmission control step of controlling transmission of the setting information in order that the printing-completion notification destination of printing-completion notification function of the image forming apparatus will be set to the image forming apparatus as a network address.

13. (Original) The method according to claim 12, wherein the network address is a network address of a print server, and said transmission control step transmits this network address in order that it will be set to the image forming apparatus.

14. (Original) The method according to claim 10, further comprising:
a print-request receiving step of receiving a print request, which does not include print data, from an information processing apparatus connected to the printing control apparatus via the network; and

a printing-permission notification step of notifying the information processing apparatus of permission to execute printing in accordance with the status of the image forming apparatus; wherein said information processing apparatus transmits print data to the image forming apparatus in response to notification of permission to execute printing from said printing control apparatus.

15. to 17. (Canceled)

18. (Original) The method according to claim 10, wherein this method is used in a print server.

19. (Currently amended) A control program executed in a printing control apparatus that communicates with an image forming apparatus connected via a network, comprising:

a registration step of registering information used in order to enable utilization of the image forming apparatus; [[and]]

a generating step, responsive to registration of said information at said registration step, for generating setting information to set a printing-completion notification destination of a printing-completion notification step of the image forming apparatus to the printing control apparatus in such a manner that notification of completion of printing can be received from the image forming apparatus; and

a determination step of determining, on the basis of information indicative of a printing-completion notification function possessed by the image forming apparatus, whether the image forming apparatus has a printing-completion notification function; and

a step of transmitting result of the determination at said determination step is transmitted to the information processing apparatus,

wherein said determination step determines whether a printing-completion notification destination in the image forming apparatus can be stored in the image forming apparatus, and causes the printing control apparatus to transmit the result of this determination to the information processing apparatus, and

wherein if said determination step determines that the printing-completion notification destination in said image forming apparatus can be stored in the image forming apparatus, an instruction which makes a setting such that the printing-completion notification destination becomes the printing control apparatus is not generated with respect to print data, and if said determination step determines that the printing-completion notification destination cannot be stored in the image forming apparatus, the printing control apparatus is caused to notify the information processing apparatus that an instruction which makes a setting such that the printing-completion notification destination becomes the printing control apparatus is generated with respect to print data.

20. (Original) The control program according to claim 19, wherein the information used in order to enable utilization of the image forming apparatus included information indicative of a printing-completion notification function possessed by the image forming apparatus;

said generating step generating setting information, which is recognizable by the image forming apparatus for setting the printing-completion notification destination to the printing control apparatus, on the basis of information indicating the printing-completion notification function possessed by the image forming apparatus.

21. (Original) The control program according to claim 20, further comprising a transmission control step of controlling transmission of the setting information in order that the printing-completion notification destination of

printing-completion notification function of the image forming apparatus will be set to the image forming apparatus as a network address.

22. (Original) The control program according to claim 21, wherein the network address is a network address of a print server, and said transmission control step transmits this network address in order that it will be set to the image forming apparatus.

23. (Original) The control program set forth in claim 19 wherein the following steps are executed in the printing control apparatus:

a print-request receiving step of receiving a print request, which does not include print data, from an information processing apparatus connected to the printing control apparatus via the network; and

a printing-permission notification step of notifying the information processing apparatus of permission to execute printing in accordance with the status of the image forming apparatus;

wherein said information processing apparatus transmits print data to the image forming apparatus in response to notification of permission to execute printing from said information processing apparatus.

24. to 26. (Canceled)

27. (Original) The control program according to claim 19, wherein this control program is executed in a print server.

28. to 60. (Withdrawn)

61. (Canceled)

62. and 63. (Withdrawn)